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MATWATCH

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SUMMER SLAM '88
SPECIAL EDITION

* * * * * BULLETIN * * * * *

A family squabble between Jim Crockett and brother and sister David and Frances blocked last week's expected sale of the NWA to Ted Turner and has the whole deal in trouble. MATWATCH has learned Turner is actively talking with alternate wrestling groups to program WTBS. One of the groups---surprisingly---is Global, whose people have told Turner they could attract much of the NWA talent if they are on the Super Station. TBS's Gerry Hogan is handling the negotiations but could not be reached for comment. TBS officials have also been told to view tape of the CWF, which insiders have suggested would be TBS's best ratings bet if an existing group is signed. A third proposal is also said to be in the wings. MATWATCH has been told Turner is thoroughly irritated with the situation and will probably cancel the NWA on TBS if a deal isn't reached within 30 days.

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HOGAN, SAVAGE WIN SUMMER SLAM '88 MAIN EVENT; LIZ STRIPS---A BIT; ANABOLIC WARRIOR TAKES INTERCONTINENTAL TITLE FROM HONKY TONK MAN IN 33 SECONDS

More than 20,000 jammed Madison Square Garden Monday night to see the best legs in wrestling (sorry for the chauvunist line). Jesse Ventura began the main event chasing out the managers. Randy Savage and Andre the Giant started. Andre stayed in 8 seconds. Hulk comes in and atomic drops Ted DiBiase at 1:06. DiBiase sold a double elbow, a double boot and a bodyslam like nuts. But Hulk is butted when he chases Andre. Andre comes in at 3:30 to choke, claw Hogan. DiBiase tags in at 5:15. Ted clothesline Hulk for 2-count at 5:30. Ted continues a great series before going to a chinlock. Hulk rallies at 7:40 but he and Ted double clothesline at 7:50. Hogan tags Savage at 8:15...Randy does excellent series and does a Bombs Away at 8:50. But Randy misses a turnbuckle dive at 9:05 before rallying for a cross body block and 2-count. Andre tags DiBiase at 9:35. Giant sits on Randy but looks awful. Ted tags back in but misses reverse elbow at 11:10. Savage tags Hulk at 11:30 who suplexes Ted at 11:50, crowd explodes and Andre is clotheslined. Hulk sleeper on DiBiase at 12:22 but Andre attacks and butts Hulk and both Hulk and Savage thrown out of ring. With the heels and Jesse in the ring, Heenan and Liz are on the apron. Jesse tries to order the managers off, but Liz peels off her skirt to reveal red tights and Ventura does the best take since Jack Benny died. Randy climbs the ropes and crashes Andre out of the ring, and Hogan clobbers DiBiase and goes in for the legdrop. Jesse counts one...two and Savage forces his hand down for three. Hogan/Savage win in 14:35. Rating: POWERSLAM-PLUS...not the best match these four have had but for the heat and crowd reax to Liz, it has to make up for some of the slower moments.

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OTHER MATCHES

2. BRITISH BULLDOGS VS. ROUGEAUS: Brawling, stalling early. Bulldogs double headbutt at 1:50. Restholds next 2 minutes. 'Dogs double forearm at 5:30 but Jacques trips Davey Boy at 6:00. Rougeaus work on leg for 5:00 but Davey escapes, throws Raymond into rail at 11:15. Dynamite suplexed at 12:20. Jacques uses abdominal stretch at 13:30. Rougeaus seahorse Dynamite for 3:00. Ref misses Dynamite small package, Davey Boy tags in and Raymond is crotched at 19:00. Ref misses rocket launcher at bell. 20:00 draw. POWERSLAM....good opener.

3. BAD NEWS BROWN VS. KEN PATERA: Bad News jumps Patera at bell and pummels for :55 before Ken rallies. Brawling for 2:00 then Ken gets bearhug at 4:15. Brown escapes, posts Patera's shoulder and connects with ghetto-blaster for pin at 5:47. BOMB-PLUS...both guys tire but Patera looked old.

4. RICK RUDE VS. JUNKFOOD DOG: Rick has JFD on his tights in the Cheryl Roberts position. Second straight attack-at-bell job but JFD reverses at :10 and butts Rude out of ring (there were five pre-bell attacks in 10 matches on the night, a bit much).

Rude rallies at 1:43 and connects off the top rope, brawls for 1:10 and goes to chinlock for 1:22 until JFD escapes. JFD applies headbutts but goes after Heenan and Rude knees JFD in back, climbs to top rope after Russian leg sweep and rolls down tights to show Cheryl. At 5:45, Jake Roberts does run-in and destroys Rude, including clothesline which knocks Rude over ropes. Rude wins on DQ at 6:02. RESTHOLD.

5. POWERS OF PAIN VS. BOLSHEVIKS: Three straight bell attacks. P.O.P. destroy Bolsheviks for first 1:40. Ref misses Warlord belly-to-belly suplex at 3:13. Nikolai jumps and gains control. Bore-us chokes Warlord at 4:20. Brawling/restholds for 2:00. Baron Von Raschke (P.O.P. manager) chases Slick. Warlord finally escapes at 6:50. Barbarian destroys both 'Viks for 1:00, tags Warlord who powerslams Boreus and Konga finishes off Zhukov with headbutt off top rope at 8:32. DRAW...for Konga's efforts.

6. BROTHER LOVE with HACKSAW JIM DUGGAN as guest. What a dud after the rumors and promising someone who'd never been in the WWF. Actually it got over fairly well: mostly Bro. Love accusing Duggan of being a man without love and ending with Duggan giving the good Brother a 5-count to leave before swinging and missing with the 2x4.

7. INTERCONTINENTAL TITLE: HONKY TONK MAN VS. ANABOLIC WARRIOR. Crowd goes nuts for the Warrior who overwhelms Honky with his whirlwind entrance, destroys him with a powerslam and the Big Splash to win the I-C belt in 33 seconds. Ain't it funny that Hogan, Savage, Steamboat and Brutus couldn't do it and Anabolic could? Reminded me of Bob Armstrong's North American title win over Buddy Colt in 29 seconds in 1974. DRAW...simply for how overthis one was with the crowd and it didn't last long enough for Dingo/Rock/Ultimate to blow up.

INTERVIEW: GENE OKERLUND with SUGAR RAY LEONARD to plug Nov. 7 fight with DONNY LALONDE.

AFTER INTERMISSION: HEENAN enters booth with GORILLA MONSOON, BILLY GRAHAM to report on what Megabucks, Megapowers are doing. Bad schtick.

8. DON MURACO VS. DINO BRAVO: Headlock by Don for first minute, then mild action before Dino flees. Muraco reverses whip at 2:30 before armdrag. Bravo rallies at 3:45 and uses atomic drop. Don goes for Russian legsweep at 4:48 but attacks Frenchy Martin and when ref's back is turned, Bravo attacks and uses one-armed backbreaker for pin at 5:17. BOMB-PLUS.

9. WWF WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP: HART FOUNDATION VS. DEMOLITION. Bret uses a series of power moves early and gets two-count on Smash (Barry Darsow). Neidhart uses brawling moves before Ax (Bill Eadie) interferes to stop momentum. Ax uses power moves before Jim karates him and tags Bret. Bret's shoulder posted at 3:50. Bret doubleteamed and arm tied in ropes at 4:45. Smash uses spinning armlock on Bret at 5:50. Bret finally rallies for clothesline at 7:50 and tags Anvil but ref misses tag. Bret nails Smash with knee at 8:35 and tags Neidhart. Jim uses series of clotheslines and crashes before Bret slingshots Anvil over ropes onto Smash in great move. Powerslam for 2-count at 9:30 by Neidhart. Series of moves for three 2-counts. Neidhart nails Fuji at 10:05 but Jimmy Hart tosses megaphone to Ax who clobbers Bret. Smash covers for pin at 10:15. PILEDRIVER....best match at this point on the card, crowd really into it, lots of action, the ending too predictable but they'd be better off rematching these two instead of pushing Powers of Pain for a title match, considering crowd reax.

10. BUBBA ROGERS BOSSMAN VS. KOKO B. WARE: Fifth attack before the bell tonight. This is getting old. Bubba destroys Koko until Ware rallies with dropkick at :45 which ties Bubba's arms in ropes (most offensive move against him yet in WWF) but Bossman uses power moves, facelock, stomps, clothesline at 2:50, chicken wing at 3:20, Ivan Koloff throat dive at 3:50, misses Bombs Away at 4:40, crotches himself at 5:05. Koko does flying dropkick from 2nd rope at 5:30 but Bubba kicks out. However, Bubba dumps Koko over top rope and uses the Bubba flapjack for the pin at 6:08. RESTHOLD...Koko must be only in the WWF to sing on the Slammys.

DRESSING ROOM INTERVIEWS: Honky and Anabolic with the predictable responses but at least they did them, unlike the Bash PPV.

11. HERCULES HERNANDEZ VS. JAKE ROBERTS: Herc starts brawling but Jake misses DDT at :35. Restholds early...Herc clothesline for 2-count at 4:10. Back to restholds. Jake takes bump onto floor at 6:45. But Jake beals Herc onto floor at 7:35. Herc clotheslines at 7:55. Jake rallies and brawls, clotheslines, misses kneelift at 9:00. But Jake reverses slam and DDTs at 10:00 for pin. Yeah, he applies Damien, too. RESTHOLD.

FLASHBACK: Scene-setters of Superstars angles to set up MEAGAPOWERS-MEGABUCKS matchup.

NEXT WEEK: We'll have a post-mortem on SUMMER SLAM '88 and preview CLASH OF THE CHAMPIONS III.

Every once in a while, one covers himself with qualifying words as a journalist, such as "likely to," "will probably be," or "is expected to." There's a reason for that, as happened last week in our lead MATWATCH story. When we said it was "likely" that an agreement in principle for Ted Turner to buy the NWA had been signed, it came on the heels of confirmation from two well-placed sources inside the Turner organization. Virtually everyone from the TBS people to several wrestlers were convinced the deal had been done (see more in COMINGS & GOINGS). But after a hot weekend of sell-outs in Norfolk, Richmond, and Philadelphia, David and Frances Crockett apparently backed off their end of the sale committment. By the time you get this, a sale still may have been consummated. If we know for sure, we'll tell you before the issue ends. One of my most trusted sources tells me the Crocketts "still have no choice....they have to sell because of their debt." I'm told Frances and David aren't trying to hold Turner up so much as they're holding up Jim for a bigger cut of his end of things. This thing has apparently developed into a genuine family feud to the point that Ray Combs probably needs to come in and host it.

In the interim, I thought for one week, we might look at a lighter side of this situation. With the Crocketts now based in Dallas, let's see just how this situation might be transformed into a script for one of America's longest-running dramatic series.

. The board room of Ewing Oil (Jim Crockett Promotions) is filled with family members: J.R. (Jim Crockett Jr.), Bobby (David Crockett), Pam (Frances Crockett), Gary (Jack Crockett), and Miss Ellie (Mrs. Jim Crockett Sr.) On the wall hangs a portrait of the imposing Jock (Jim Crockett Sr.) in a white cowboy hat, holding a tag team championship cup. The dire conversation begins:

J.R./JIM: We're in trouble.

BOBBY/DAVID: How's that?

J.R./JIM: Shut up, Bobby/David. This isn't World Wide Wrestling.

BOBBY/DAVID: You be careful how you talk to me, J.R./Jim. Remember, I'm the foremost wrestling announcer in the world. Why I could....

J.R./JIM: You wouldn't be in any place if you weren't a member of this family. Now let's get on with this.. wait a minute. Pam/Frances, you're married to Bobby but you're supposed to be our sister. How can that be?

PAM/FRANCES: Don't worry about it, J.R./Jim. Nothing this family does ever makes sense.

J.R./JIM: Enough of that! We're all here to discuss the takeover of Jim Crockett Promotions.

GARY/JACK: I thought this was Ewing Oil.

J.R./JIM: For the rest of this meeting, we're calling this Jim Crockett Promotions...it's a code name. As you all know, Jeremy Wendell (Ted Turner) has made a bid to take us over. His company WrestStar wants to take the whole business in. I guess you know where that leaves us.

BOBBY/DAVID: But J.R./Jim, we did big business this past weekend in Norfolk, Richmond, and Philadelphia.

PAM/FRANCES: Yeah, why do we need Jeremy/Ted to push us all out of a business we run so well.

J.R./JIM: Because we're broke! Don't you see it! Barney Rubble (Ronnie Garvin) just left us over the weekend.

BOBBY/DAVID: He's on a different show, J.R./Jim.

J.R./JIM: Shut up! The world keeps buzzing about this one leaving and that one leaving.

PAM/FRANCES: J.R./Jim, why don't we see how the cartel feels about this. You know, the cartel (The Four Horsemen) have always been our bread and butter when we needed them.

J.R./JIM: That's a terrible idea! That cartel (Horsemen) has been about as stable as a crowd in a locked elevator. They couldn't hold onto Jordan Lee (Ole Anderson); Marilee Stone (Baby Doll) is long gone. Heck with 'em.

BOBBY/DAVID: Well, we haven't heard anything from GARY/JACK about all of this.

GARY/JACK: Well, I think you can all take the company and....

J.R./JIM: I don't care what you think. Daddy always knew you weren't going to amount to anything. That's why you run around carrying cameras all over the place. And you miss half the shots...

MISS ELLIE/MRS. JIM SR.: That's enough, J.R./Jim. I'll not have you talking like this in front of your father's picture. We're a family!

J.R./JIM: Mama, you stay out of this. My daddy always told me I'd be the one to make the decisions in this company.

BOBBY/DAVID: Yeah, J.R./Jim, and you've run our daddy's company almost out of business. It seems like we've had all the ideas here. WOWWWWW! HEEEEEY So, what's your big answer? Sell out to Jeremy/Ted?

J.R./JIM: Yeah, Bobby/David. Maybe that isn't what Daddy would want, but he also wouldn't want us to go bankrupt. That would make us the biggest blight on the state of Texas and maybe even the whole country, next to that idiot Cliff Barnes (Fritz Von Erich). Of course, maybe there is one choice..

PAM/FRANCES, BOBBY/DAVID, GARY/JACK/MISS ELLIE/MRS. JIM SR.: WHAT?

J.R./JIM: Well, I guess we're in such bad shape I'll have to tell you something only Mama knows.

MISS ELLIE/MRS. JIM SR.: J.R./Jim, NOOO

J.R./JIM: Mama, I'm sorry. But during the war, our Daddy had a fourth son. Now, he may be a half-breed and he may not have the Ewing/Crockett name. But he may be our only hope.

BOBBY/DAVID: J.R./Jim, who are you talking about?

J.R./JIM: I'm talking about....well.... Ray Krebbs (Dusty Rhodes). He's like a member of this family.

GARY/JACK: Speak for yourself.

("Midnight Rider" music plays in the background)

J.R./JIM: Let me get him in here. RAAAAAAAAY!

(Ray/Dusty enters room on horse)

BOBBY/DAVID: Oh, get real, Jim/J.R.! This is the same guy who bopped you in the throat with a baseball bat. This is the same Ray Krebbs/Dusty Rhodes who can't push the cattle any more because he spends too much time pushing himself. Even that guy down in Montgomery (Paul E. Dangerously) says he's going to bring back somebody as The Midnight Rider.

J.R./JIM: Hey, that's right. Didn't we have that guy working for us once..... what was the name of that company we owned?....the U-W....F, that was it.

RAY/DUSTY: That's riiiight. I had to run that group outta beeeyuzness.

BOBBY/DAVID: Yeah, Dr. Death still wants a few words with you about that.

PAM/FRANCES: J.R./Jim, this is the stupidest thing I ever heard. You've always brought Ray/Dusty back in the 11th hour before. This is the 13th Hour. Why don't I just have a dream and we can tell everybody that's what it is...a dream... and we'll bring back the Freebirds, Hot Stuff, Chris Adams. It'll be great!

J.R./JIM: Pam/Frances, we can't do that. Dave Meltzer's already written that. It's not original. Besides...he's so negative, it's all his fault we're in this predicament.

RAY/DUSTY: How about Uvalde Slim? He's another good friend of mine. Our Daddy's friend Punk (Paul Boesch) can always get us off the hook if that doesn't work.

(At this point...the whole room begins a mass of verbal confusion when suddenly, two figures enter the room.)

J.R./JIM: Jeremy/Ted. I wasn't expecting you to come to Dallas.

JEREMY/TED: Ahhhh....you won't see me here again....ahhhh.....I just want you to know you have until...ahhhh... Midnight Friday.....ahhhh....to sell me this place or...ahhhh...the deal's off.

SURPRISE VISITOR: I'll go you one better than that! (Slams fist on table... gets in J.R./Jim's face)

J.R./JIM: Now wait a minute, Starbuck (Watts). You're not on our show or even our network!

STARBUCK/WATTS: That's right---it's Bill (J.J. Starbuck) Watts to you and you don't need to worry about what network I'm on. (Gets in J.R./Jim's nose) The only network you need to worry about is The Wrestling Network because there ain't gonna be one if I don't get my three million dollars you owe me.

MISS ELLIE/MRS. JIM SR.: So, J.R./JIM. Those were those phone messages you didn't return....and this was the man you didn't see the last time he came to Dallas!

RAY/DUSTY: Hey how about the Bunkhouse Stampede with me winning for the fourth straight year!

STARBUCK/WATTS: Three million dollars!

WENDELL/TED: You've got til' Friday!

BOBBY/DAVID: HO-HO-HO-HO...let MEE run the company.

MISS ELLIE/MRS. JIM SR.: J.R./Jim, I'm shocked at you!

(Suddenly, the lights flicker and dim and panic sets in...)

CRACK!!! CRACK!!! CRACK!!! (The apparent sound of gunfire and....

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Leonard Katzman

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---BACK ISSUES---

To receive past issues of MATWATCH, send $1 to: STEVE BEVERLY, 213 PINE HILLS AVE., AUBURN AL 36830.

PROMOTER'S PROFILE: WORLD CLASS

I once went out with a girl named Susie Cross---you know the type: Ivory girl, high school cheerleader, face which needed no Clearasil. Suddenly, one night I showed up at a basketball game and saw Susie with the dreaded Earl "Pee Wee" Usry. Confused, the hand of Big Ed Coleman touched my back. Big Ed proclaimed, "Son, you've just learned the meaning of the word 'fickle.'"

In a sense, the year 1988 has seen the World Class promotion become the Susie Cross of professional wrestling. The fickleness hasn't ensued from the fans but from the uncertainty of this organization. One month, it appears World Class is having tent-meeting revival time; the next, a hunk of its talent leaves.

Think about it---when Ken Mantell bought into this group and ingeniously began feuding the World Class wrestlers with his Wild West roster, momentum even had people overestimating this promotion to be overtaking the NWA as the #2 outfit.

Mantell brought his uncomparable skill for producing quality television---and at least for a few months, not everything revolved around the tired Von Erich clan. World Class even garnered a few breaks: the NWA's miscalculation with Michael Hayes sent him Texas way, Jerry Lawler's winning of the AWA world title revitalized the value of that belt and sent Lawler in for some Texas shows, and---even though the crowd was poor---Dusty Rhodes' secret weapon of a Triple Tower of Doom for his Bash PPV show was stolen for the May Von Erich Parade of Champions.

But Mantell is out again and I don't think it's my imagination that this group is approaching staleness again. The Von Erichs now hold every key belt but the light heavyweight title (and Chris isn't old enough to get in the ring yet) and the Texas title Kerry just lost for Kevin. And we're all quick to accuse Dusty of egomaniacal booking.

I'm all for youth and have urged groups like the NWA to revitalize themselves with it as the CWF has done. Steve Cox is a fine addition, but the teaming of Cox with Hayes doesn't seem to make sense and it's hard to get a focus on where that feud is going. As someone said to me last week, "Michael always seems to be a bit lackluster without Terry Gordy around." Eric Embry is a quality worker but it appears Steve Casey is the only wrestler for him to feud with and, particularly on TV, this situation is typical of many promotions today not mixing their matchups amongst top players.

The losses of Chris Adams and Terry Taylor really hit muscle in this organization, because those two were in the midst of a continuing feud that never really got resolved when Adams left Crockett's UWF last year. Both were capable of semi-final or even top main event brawls that could have distracted the attention from The Family.

If there is a bright spot on the horizon, it has to be the young Samoan Swat Team. Both Samu and Fatu move exceptionally well and fast for large grapplers who aren't very tall. Plus, even as heels, they seem to bring a zest and enthusiasm into their work. Personally, if the NWA wasn't into its sale quagmire, I'd recommend they steal them away today and start feuding them with The Road Warriors---who badly need a fresh counterpart team.

But the most immediate losses of Jack Victory and the Simpson brothers, along with Terry Gordy's continuing trips to Japan, are cutting deeply into the variety and flavor of World Class.

I won't pass immediate judgment on Kevin Von Erich's potential ability to stop the sinking momentum of the Texans. It won't be done by bringing back Black Bart. It won't be done by giving Iceman Parsons another belt, as was just done.

Unfortunately, the revolving door philosophy of booking and administration in World Class is its own enemy. It's like when I realized just how fickle Susie Cross was. I never dated her again. Fickle promotions often bring the same reaction to their fans.

I REMEMBER...Jim Carlisle

Throughout this country, dozens of wrestling announcers have filtered into oblivion, swallowed up by the national egress of the promotional business. Last week, we lost one of the best guys at stirring up the locals in four Georgia cities.

Jim Carlisle started his broadcasting career on WRBL Radio in Columbus GA in the early '60s. He soon filtered over to the TV side as a booth announcer and in 1966, became the host of a daily science fiction movie. As "V-Man," Carlisle's "Peace to the Universe" signoff was West Georgia's "may the force be with you" of its day.

In 1969, at the age of 30, Carlisle moonlighted as the play-by-play announcer for Fred Ward's live Saturday matches from Columbus' downtown Sports Arena. The matches were in black-and-white until 1972, but Carlisle made his mark as a competent if unspectacular ring broadcaster.

When I became a newscaster in Columbus in 1976, I began hanging around the arena on Saturday and Jim was nothing less than cordial to me on every occasion. Known by some of the wrestlers as "The Sultan of Spit" or "The Earl of Enunciation," so forceful was the golden-throated Carlisle's elocution, Jim worked hard at developing technical wrestling knowledge and was never caught erroneously describing a hold or analyzing a ring predicament.

I remember Carlisle's most memorable bump, during the 1978 turn of Stan Hansen against Ole Anderson. The brawl went all over the small arena but when Stan and Ole first collared near the announcer's table, Carlisle---in the midst of an interview---crashed his side into the set when Hansen accidentally backed too far.

Carlisle reflected Ward's philsophy of reflecting entertainment for the family. He detested Thunderbolt Patterson's profanity during interviews and, in a sense, he was always "V-Man" at the desk to the younger Columbusites who grew up with him.

Jim Carlisle only 49 when he passed away Aug. 14. He won't go down as the most celebrated announcer in the business. Nowhere close. But you would have liked him.

COMINGS & GOINGS

---Anabolic Warrior's sudden rise to a lead spot in Summer Slam wasn't so much a surprise because of the SUPERSTARS angles shot last weekend in which he appeared with the Intercontinental belt twice. That's what is beginning to really irk me about the modern era of advance TV taping....little suspense for title changes that takes the mystique out of the business.

---MATWATCHer John Lanigan is reporting that One Man Gang has left the WWF. If so, do we detect a trend away from the slob or bulky performer, since Bam Bam Bigelow is also gone...or is Bubba Rogers Bossman simply this year's Gang? This is indicative that nationally-exposed wrestlers are being swallowed up much quicker. I'll analyze that aspect in a future SIDELIGHTS.

---On the Turner/NWA front: as of the end of the weekend, key wrestlers and Jim Barnett---the former promoter who works with Crockett's Wrestling Network ---were still forecasting an imminent sale.

---However, one trusted source of mine called the negotiations "in grave jeopardy" last Wednesday. The genuine fear of insiders who want the sale to go through is that Ted is about to get fed up with the family quarrel and pull out of the entire situation. At this point, one honestly couldn't blame him.

---The Flair-Luger battles have caught fire, credited to the fact that fans in respective cities believe they are having the sole rematch, from the way local promotion inserts have been targeted. Plus, the Tully & Arn-Midnight Express feud has kept interest perking.

---In Columbus GA Aug. 25: T&A (no pun intended) went to a double DQ with Midnights; Sting-Luger d. Flair-Barry Windham; Steve Williams d. Kevin Sullivan (sub for Ronnie Garvin); The Fantastics d. Varsity Club.

---By now you know Ronnie Garvin and Tim Horner have both left the NWA. Horner is expected imminently in the CWF and Garvin is booked in Puerto Rico and the AWA. Some are touting a Garvin-Lawler AWA belt match.

---Jack Victory headed into the NWA as Russian Assassin #2, so I guess we'll see the Uncle Ivan/Nikita reunion vs. the two Assassins. Zowee!

---World Class has an advance sale of 12 tickets for a Hammond IN card in early September.

---The NWA departures alter the Sept. 7 CLASH OF THE CHAMPIONS III lineup on TBS accordingly: Brad Armstrong replaces Horner vs. Mike Rotunda for the NWA TV title (a good match but no title change); Sullivan replaces Garvin with Al Perez vs. The Texas Outlaws.

---Ronnie's blowup apparently was over travel arrangements which shot way out of proportion. Not too unlike the flap that led to Robert Gibson's goodbye.

---The FNN/SCORE CWF show on Sept. 4 will have an excellent scientific match between Tom Prichard and Danny Davis until Nelson Royal interferes.

---Tentative seeds for Oct. 3 CWF ROAD TO BIRMINGHAM: 1. Bob Orton Jr. 2. Austin Idol 3. Eddie Gilbert 4. Tommy Rich 5. Chris Adams 6. Tom Prichard 7. TBA 8. Tony Anthony 9. Dutch Mantel 10. The Bullet. If the pairings are handled in proper tourney style, #7 would face Bullet and Anthony would meet Mantel to reduce the field to eight. Then the pairings would be: Orton vs. #7-Bullet winner; Idol vs. Anthony-Mantel winner (likely Anthony); Gilbert-Prichard; Rich-Adams, but wrestling tournament matches (a la Crockett Cup) don't always follow seeds. Plus, in true tourney style, 2 and 3 would be on a collision for the semifinals and I can't believe Idol and Gilbert won't meet for the belt.

---If anyone is truly interested in attending the ROAD card on Oct. 3, notify me by phone or mail before Sept. 15 but I must have a firm yes or no. I'll be there.

---The CWF starts their two-a-night circuit this Wednesday with cards in Meridian MS and Perry FL.

Missy Hyatt is over enormously now as a face and a turnaway crowd shoved for the most recent TV taping in Montgomery. But Woods badly needs to get a battery-powered light for the hand-held camera on ringside interviews and out-of-ring action. This past week's ringside lighting was substandard.

---AWA/World Class in Medina OH Sat. night: Medusa Maceli vs. Moolah, Kevin Von Erich & Michael Hayes vs. The Spoiler & Adrian Street, Jimmy Valiant vs. Kimala, Lawler vs. Wahoo. Let's see if they all show.

---USWA (Aug. 14, Meadowlands PA): John Gavin d. Mikel the Terrorist; Misty Blue d. Linda Dallas in USWA Women's title match; Dante DeNucci/Bobby Fox d. James Folger/Johnny Rotten; Jumpin Jack Flash d. Krusher Klebanski; Sgt. Slaughter d. Vladimir Markoff.

---Some final notes: congrats to MATWATCHer Max Lide on his retirement, thanks to Earl Roop for his old NWA clippings and let me plug a fine newsletter, ANGLE. Sharp analysis and humor. To order (4 issues for $10): ANGLE, 59 Livingston St., Suite 6B, Brooklyn NY 11201.

TV TEMPO (Weekend of Aug. 26-28)

RATING KEY: PINFALL! - Must See. PILEDRIVER - Excellent. POWERSLAM - Good. DRAW - Average. RESTHOLD - Fair. BOMB - Poor.

(W. CLASS) - Steve Casey d. Bob Bradley; Steve Simpson wins DQ over Jack Victory; J.J. Funk d. Dan Fowler; Samoan Swat Team wins NCCW tag titles over Von Erichs when Samu spikes Kevin during ref bump. POWERSLAM.

(CWF) - Doug Furnas d. Bucky Seigler; Tony Anthony d. Rick Hazzard; Johnny & Davey Rich double DQ with Samoans when Alan Martin hits Johnny with briefcase and Missy Hyatt scratches Martin in face; Tom Prichard d. Danny Davis by COR but Prichard refuses win because Nelson Royal attacks & posts Davis during ref bump; Dutch Mantel d. Ted Manson; Eddie Gilbert d. Lee Peek, then piledrives Peek but the Bullet saves and Willie B. Hert chases Eddie out of arena. ANGLES: D.I./Detroit Demolition/Mark Pyle attack & post Furnas during his interview; MISSY'S MANOR with Hert. POWERSLAM-PLUS.

(WWC) - Dan Kroffat/Bobby Jaggers no contest vs. Hurricane Castillo/Miguel Perez Jr.; Arena match: Hercules Ayala d. TNT. DRAW-PLUS.

(MEMPHIS) - Gary Young, Billy Travis, Phil Hickerson win squashes; Arena match: Gary Young vs. Max Pain double DQ, ends in wild melee. BIG ANGLE: Robert Fuller (in wheelchair nursing bad leg), gives Young a sequined robe, Hickerson $1,000, Sylvia a diamond ring and Brickhouse Brown a chef's hat, an RC Cola and a moonpie. Brickhouse blows up at Stud Stable which then turns on Brown and beats him silly. POWERSLAM.

(WWF) - SUPERSTARS: Rougeaus d. Brad Anderson/Lanny Poffo; Hercules Hernandez, Koko B. Ware, Hart Foundation, Brutus Beefcake win other squashes. ANGLES: Ron Bass jumps Beefcake, chokes him with "Miss Betsy" and lacerates his with scissors to eliminate Brutus from Summer Slam; Hulk Hogan/Randy Savage discuss "secret weapon" (Elizabeth in string bikini) for Summer Slam. DRAW-PLUS for Beefcake juice. CHALLENGE: Powers of Pain d. Joe Cruze/Al Novarro; Rick Rude, Bad News Brown, Ultimate Warrior win other squashes; Bro. Love with Andre/DiBiase. BOMB-PLUS.

(PWTW) - WCCW: SST double DQ with Hayes & Cox; CWF: Ron West suspends Gilbert & Paul E. Dangerously but rescinds by request of Hert; Gilbert's reaction to Alan Martin kissing Missy; PORTLAND: Beach Boys d. Southern Rockers; MEMPHIS: Travis/Shawn Baxter/Scott Steiner win DQ over Young/Brown/Senshe; WWF, Summer Slam preview. 7UP WRESTLER OF WEEK: Ron West (?). POWERSLAM...but the W.O.W. pick was stretching it.

(NWA) - TBS: Mike Rotunda d. Eddie Sweat in NWA TV title match (one of the worst of any year); Rick Steiner d. Keith Steinborn in Florida title match; Squash winners: The Rock & Russian Express (Ricky Morton/Nikita Koloff), Russian Assassin, Tully & Arn, Al Perez, Brad Armstrong, Sting, Steve Williams, Jimmy Garvin. ANGLES: Morton accepts chain match for Sept. 7 on CLASH III vs. Uncle Ivan; tape of T&A attack on Bobby Eaton in dressing room; tape of Perez/Kevin Sullivan/Gary Hart tripleteam on The Big Ball of Cholesterol. DRAW. NWA PRO: Rotunda d. Kendall Windham in fine TV title match; Armstrong d. Perez by DQ when Al uses chain and Sullivan aids until jobbers make save; Barry Windham, Midnight Express, Nikita win squashes. POWERSLAM. WORLD WIDE: All-squash winners: T&A, Fantastics, Midnights/Steiner (6-man), Barry, Rock & Russian Express. BOMB. MAIN EVENT: Midnights d. Italian Stallion/Kendall Windham; Jimmy Garvin d. Sullivan in Prince of Darkness match; Nikita DQ over Perez when Gary Hart interferes. RESTHOLD.

(SCW) - M.E.B. d. Jamie Kyle; Doug Sommers d. Jim Voss; Mr. Wrestling II d. Firewalker #1; Nick Busich draw with Tim Ashley; Tommy Rich/Joey Maggs vs. M.O.D. Squad for Southern tag belts ends in double pin, belts held up. BOMB.

LINES OF THE WEEK -1. Jesse Ventura, WWF: "I'll take money from anybody. Macho Man want to throw in Elizabeth? I'll take her." 2. Marc Lowrance, WCCW: "You have to have a 6-pack a day to do the number of sit-ups Jack Victory does." 3. Kendall Windham, World Wide: "If Barry wants me to fight back-to-back with him today, I'll do it. That doesn't mean I'd join the Horsemen." 4. Tony Schiavone, TBS, on Tokyo fan Masanori Oria: "Did I pronounce his name right? Well, I bet he couldn't pronounce Schiavone.

BLOOPER AWARD - Charlie Platt, CWF, to The Bullet: "Bob, we have a new segment here."

STRONGEST COMMENTS - 1. Bullet, CWF: "I predict in the next year the CWF is going to be the biggest wrestling organization in the country." 2. Joe Pedicino, WCCW: "These guys leaving the arena (SST) are thieves."

BURIAL AWARD - Schiavone, TBS, for saying Dusty Rhodes had put Ronnie Garvin out "4-6 months with rib injuries."

BOO AWARD - David Crockett, World Wide, for calling Ricky Morton "every girl's dream" and Nikita Koloff "every man's nightmare." Eddie Gilbert & Sting should sue for plagiarism.

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